



MEDIA ADVISORY

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

**For Immediate Release
Date: March 31, 2010
10-06**

**Contact:
Joyce Conant, 410-962-2809
Joyce.conant@usace.army.mil**

Media invited to tour the Spring Valley explosive destruction system (EDS)

BALTIMORE - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Spring Valley project team will conduct a tour of the mobile treatment system, known as an Explosive Destruction System (EDS), on federal property located at 5201 Little Falls Road, NW, Washington, D.C., for members of the media on Monday, April 5, at 1:30 p.m.

An overview of the investigation and recovery activities will be presented followed by a visit to the EDS and will also include an opportunity to view the safety measures in place to cover this activity. Project personnel will be available to answer questions.

USACE and the Army's Chemical Materials Agency are scheduled to safely destroy the chemical munitions at the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site federal property using the EDS.

USACE continues to manage a very active program to search for and recover World War I-related military munitions at the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site. As a result of these investigations, the Corps has recovered five munitions that contain chemical agent. The EDS will destroy the munitions onsite in April 2010, by neutralizing the chemical agent in the munitions in a sealed chamber, located within a safe, secure containment structure. In addition to the five chemical munitions, 19 non-agent, liquid filled munitions will also be destroyed using the same system.

The EDS was designed by the Army specifically to provide on-site treatment of chemical munitions in a safe and environmentally sound manner. The EDS has been approved for use in the field by the Army and the Department of Defense and has been used at many locations across the country to safely destroy more than 1,700 items, including 15 items safely destroyed at Spring Valley in 2003. The EDS has a dedicated crew of trained professionals with an exceptional safety record. There has never been a release of chemical agent outside of engineering controls during any of the past operations.

-MORE-

"One of our objectives in planning for the destruction operation was to ensure that we had sufficient safety measures in place on the federal property so the operation would have no impact on the public," said Todd Beckwith, USACE project manager. "Engineering controls and safety measures have been put into place to ensure the safety of the community."

Media representatives who plan to attend the tour should call 410-962-2809, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Affairs. Shoes for uneven terrain are suggested, and some walking will be involved. The tour will take place on federal property with security enforced. **Press credentials will be required. Please R.S.V.P. by 3 p.m., April 2 to ensure access.

For more information about the Spring Valley project, visit our Web site at:
<http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/projects/WashingtonDC/springvalley.htm>

- 30 -